



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Washington, DC 20240



Mr. James S. Gordon
President
Cape Wind Associates, LLC.
75 Arlington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

AUG 2006

Dear Mr. Gordon:

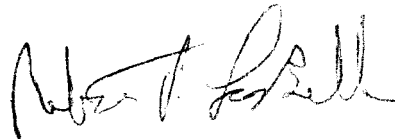
Section 388(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act by adding section 8(p) to give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to issue leases, easements or rights of way for, among other things, the development of alternative energy projects on the OCS.

Since October 2005, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) has met several times with officials of Cape Wind to discuss the project. Our staffs have engaged in numerous discussions and exchanges relating to the submission of information constituting an application that the MMS may accept for analysis and consideration under the OCS Lands Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other relevant laws. Our directions to you concerning this application have been based largely on the decades of experience and knowledge we have gained from managing oil and gas operations on the OCS. Specifically, we looked to our regulations at 30 CFR 250, Subpart B, for guidance in developing the criteria that we believe should form an application for Cape Wind that allows us to begin the NEPA process and other analyses needed to inform decision-making on the project.

We conclude that the existing data and information submitted by Cape Wind, LLC and the conceptual design for the project adequately describe the intent so that the MMS may begin the NEPA process. Since the Cape Wind project entails a new use of the OCS, as well as evolving technology, the MMS recognizes that some of the information for decision-making may not be available as we begin our NEPA review and will be developed subsequently as part of that review. Under the OCS Lands Act and NEPA, the MMS has the discretion to require the submission of additional information to assure that full and proper analysis ultimately are completed. The acquisition of new data and information significantly affecting existing analyses and conclusions could result in a revisiting of analyses. In addition, to complete a comprehensive and thorough NEPA review, MMS requests all economic and wind resource data and information pertaining to the Cape Wind Project, including all alternative offshore sites evaluated in connection with the development of the Cape Wind Project, that are in the possession of Cape Wind Associates, LLC., its consultants or any affiliated entity under its control.

We believe that using the NEPA review process as a means to gather additional data and complete the process is consistent with the law's intent, which is to help the government make informed decisions. Our review will employ a robust approach to engage all interested and affected parties as we proceed in evaluating the project and gathering all the information needed for decisions under NEPA, the OCS Lands Act, and other relevant laws. The project manager for our evaluation of Cape Wind is Dr. Rodney E. Cluck (703) 787-1087. Dr. Cluck will continue to work with your staff to coordinate the review of the proposed Cape Wind project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. LaBelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "LaBelle" clearly distinguishable.

Robert P. LaBelle
Acting Associate Director for
Offshore Minerals Management